

(Written by Edith Harper)

In the western part of Buchanan County, West Virginia, is Knapps Creek which
finds its source in the Allegheny mountains about five miles above Frost. Its two
branches unite at Frost from which place it continues to flow along the base of the
mountains to the place where it empties into the Greenbrier River, at Marlinton, a
distance of about twenty miles from Frost. The East Fork of the Creek is fed by a
stream which comes forth out of the rugged mountain side near Paddy's Knob, a peak with
an elevation of 4450 feet.

One of the principal tributaries of Knapps Creek of the Mingo neighborhood
which carries with it the waters of Coshrens Creek. At Huntersville Knapps Creek
receives two other streams, Brown Creek from one side and Gannings Creek from the
other.

Along the valley are numerous limestone springs, the waters of which are cold,
an indication of purity. These help to make the creek larger. The first of them is a
bold spring gushing out from under a hill near the fine home of S. Gibson. Further
down the valley we find the stream called Mill Run near L. S. Moore's, which re-
ceives water from a number of springs within a half mile. Next is the Mill Run at
W. B. Weaver's flowing through his farm where fine cattle graze. From here we go on
to W. S. Buckner's where there is another stream of about equal volume. The sources of
it is also a magnificent never failing stream.

Last but no least is the famous Mingo's Spring on the Lockridge property. The
crystal water of this spring is of a healing and radical nature. It has been shipped
to various parts of the country.

Origin of Name - "The Mills is the hilly region in the northwest of the valley.
There are very productive lands and are excellent for fruit and grazing. They were
at one time heavily timbered but now only small tracts remain uncut.

The area from which our good community takes its name was known as Bridge
Creek. The old lead papers but was soon changed to Knapps Creek in honor of a
man whose name of Knapp she came into the Valley from Virginia prior to 1740.

... at first the part of the creek was called ... later it was changed to ...

While here ... lived in a cabin on the west side of the creek about opposite the place where Mrs. F. L. Creek now lives. It is not definitely known what became of him.

Incident. There are evidences that the Indians once roamed through the thick forests which covered what is now our beautiful section of country. Pieces of flint and iron tools found by our citizens which were no doubt used by the Red Men. There was an Indian burial ground on a flat above the road a short distance up the valley from I. B. Moore's dwelling. Indianians were to the older people that several Indians had been buried here. It has been said that a few relics were found in later years when some excavations were made.

Early settlers. Michael Dougherty, a native of Ireland, settled in our valley near where T. S. Rudran lives about the year 1770. He was one of the first to occupy the Knappa Creek Region. The same year Moses Moore of Virginia came to Knappa Creek. It is interesting to note that he bought the land extending from J. L. Harold's to J. W. Dever's for the consideration of two steel bear traps and two pounds of English sterling. One of the traps is in the possession of I. B. Moore at this writing. The original cabin of Moses Moore was built on land now owned by Mrs. Lyda Moore.

I. B. Moore was fond of hunting, and would frequently spend several days in the region of the upper greenbrier searching for game. One Sunday morning while sitting at his bay window the whole he was surrounded and captured by five or six Indians who compelled him to travel to Ohio with them but through his cunningness he managed to escape and return to what is now Frederick County.

It is believed that the pioneer, Felix Grimes and his wife selected a site for a house on the hill near the ... church at a date preceding 1800.

The ... settled in this community between the years of 1800 and 1825 inclusive. He

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It was a task for the pioneers to clear the forest and build their homes with the poor equipment they had. They worked with a shop made pole axe. In places the thickets of white thorn and wild crab was almost impenetrable. When a primitive forest of white pine, sugar maple, and other trees of large size was cut, a log-rolling was soon in order and they were burned. Beavers and kolves were numerous and sheep had to be penned near by the house to protect them.

Land. Many of these hardy pioneers were granted land by James Monroe, John Tyler, and other governors of Virginia between the years of 1800 and 1825. Some of them made difficult trips to Richmond in order that the title of the land where they settled might be made good. The value of the land was small in comparison with the cost per acre now. Old land grants show that one conveyance of land was made as late as 1847 at a little more than one cent per acre. This was a tract of timber land containing 11,000 acres in the Alleghany mountains which extended over to Deep Creek. The sum paid for it only sixty-seven years ago (1780) was \$150.00. Since that time it has been sold and yielded millions of feet of valuable timber has been cut on it.

Taking of a Rifle - At one time a man by the name of Evick lived in what is known as the Evick hollow near Grover Moore's. He manufactures the Evick Rifle which was a famous gun in its day. We are told that one of these guns may be seen at the Postoffice office. There may be some other hollows along the mountain that received names from men who were not permanent settlers.

Timber and saw mills. A fine lot of white pine timber stood along the foot of the Alleghany. Nearly all the good trees that grew on the level were destroyed because the settlers needed improved land more than timber. A number of sugar groves were left for the purpose of making maple sugar and syrup. The mountain timber has been going on the market since 1800. The white pine was cut first. The logs were floated down the Kanawha river and the waterway river to Hancock where they were manufactured by the Kanawha Manufacturing Company.

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... million feet of white pine cut each year for a period of
 six or seven years.

At that time hardwood seemed to be of little value. During the past fifteen or twenty years it has been cut rapidly, perhaps as much as one hundred and fifty to two hundred million feet have been taken from Knappa Creek and Southards Creek and some valuable tracts are still standing.

The first saw-mills to dot this section were the up and down mills run by water power. If we are rightly informed, there were three of these; one owned and operated by Moore's at a point about opposite Moore Schoolhouse, one was on the Lockridge farm where Southards creek unites with Knappa Creek, and the third mill was built by Henry Harper and operated by him and his son Samuel, for a number of years. This last mill continued sawing until about 1890 and was the last mill of its kind to be operated in the community. Sometimes during the eighties F. K. Harper sawed lumber on this mill to build his house where Mrs. E. A. Pritchard now lives.

The first circular saw mill in this neighborhood was brought here from Augusta county, Virginia, for Wise Herold and I. B. Moore. Many people visited the new mill to observe it working.

Gristmill. The first mill to grind grain was the one owned by Michael ~~McCarthy~~ on the mill run where he settled. Peter Lightner, who was a well known citizen here in 1860, had a mill on the run at D. W. Dever's. Joseph Sharp, a pioneer of Frost, had a mill constructed close where A. A. Sharp now resides, one-half mile from the millers.

Henry Harper also had a grist mill which ground wheat, corn and buckwheat. It was located on the farm owned by Herman Shinobergy. In connection with the grist mill Mr. Harper had a saw mill which has already been mentioned, a tan-yard, and one of the old fashioned-tiltharwar blacksmith shops. The tiltharwar was run by water-power. The mill for grinding grain crushed the kernels between two large revolving stones which were brought from Rockbridge county, Virginia. It was not used longer than 1895.

We had ~~the~~ the battles of the Civil War were fought on the territory embraced within the Knappa Creek Community but brave men who have lived here were in service.

